

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 397

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Beth Corley, operator of the Capitol Snack Bar.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this legislative body should pause in its deliberations to specially honor those dedicated citizens who in their every working day are a powerful and positive force for human dignity and grace; and

WHEREAS, one such remarkable individual is Beth Corley who operates the Capitol Snack Bar through the Tennessee Business Enterprises (TBE) program, which offers entrepreneurial opportunities in food services to visually-impaired persons; and

WHEREAS, suffering the loss of her vision when she was 26 from complications with diabetes, the one-time dental hygienist overcame the mental and physical roadblocks laid in her path by diabetes and blindness to become self-sufficient and the inspiring, warm, and gracious lady we have all come to know; and

WHEREAS, her path to healing opened when Beth learned to water ski at a camp for the blind in South Carolina; realizing she could do other things, she soon found herself dating once again and going back to school to obtain a master's degree in health education; and

WHEREAS, during her years of employment, Ms. Corley has taught activities of daily living for the blind in Nashville, worked part-time in public relations at the White House during the Reagan Administration, served as Director of Health Education at the Cumberland Science Children's Museum, led health-related courses at the Lighthouse for the Blind, and taught aerobic classes for 15 years; and

WHEREAS, a highly responsible and conscientious woman, Beth Corley learned of the TBE program while having lunch with a friend who was operating a small grill in a state office building and became interested in the opportunity to own and operate her own business; and

WHEREAS, having previously operated the Turney Center Prison vending operation for TBE from September 22, 2003 until November 18, 2005, Beth's business now includes the State Capitol, the public library, and two other nearby buildings; and

WHEREAS, Beth Corley's business acumen and insight have proven beneficial to the TBE program, as she has given the agency several great ideas about revolutionizing the way it handles the Debittek Card System; and

WHEREAS, Beth Corley goes out of her way to make each and every customer feel at ease, explaining that "I have to be outgoing enough to put them at ease. Educating other people about blindness is one of the hardest things I do. People need to know that in diabetes there is life after complications"; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that this body specially recognize and applaud such an impressive and resourceful human being for her many contributions to her fellow citizens and the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Beth Corley, operator of the Capitol Snack Bar, for her unwavering positive attitude and perseverance over her disability as she lives the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we also thank Beth for the kind helpfulness she shows each and every customer at the snack bar and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success in all her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.